



REMARKS

Election/Restrictions

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claims 1-14 and 20-21. This election is now made without traverse. Please cancel claims 15-19 without prejudice for subsequent presentation in a divisional application.

Claim Rejections

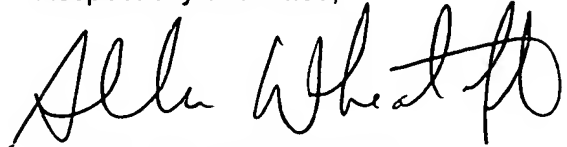
Claims 1-6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by the English translation of European Patent Application 84112904.2. Contrary to the assertion in the Official Action, the reference does not teach a seal having a plurality of films laminated together as defined in the present claims. Rather, the seal of the reference "is manufactured according to the invention by first extruding and then stretching the starting material, during which the starting material is extruded and stretched into a sealing profile whose height is greater than its maximum width." Reference at page 4. The reference only teaches direct extrusion of a material into the desired shape of the seal. No mention is made of laminating a plurality of films together, each having a height greater than the width. Also at page 4, the reference states "the most varied of profiles may be used as the extruded and stretched sealing profiles, e.g., a rectangle, an ellipse, a lozenge, a trapezoid or the shape of a convex lens." This is further evidence of the direct extrusion of the seal in the reference, rather than a buildup of layers. Accordingly, it cannot be said that the reference anticipates the claims of the present application.

Claims 1-13 and 20-21 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the reference mentioned above in combination with Hamilton (5,486,010). Hamilton, however, also fails to disclose the use of a laminate of a plurality of films. Applicants have discovered that using a laminate of a plurality of expanded porous polytetrafluoroethylene films, wherein the height of the laminate is greater than the width of the laminate, provides distinct advantages, as described in the present specification. Accordingly, the combination cannot be said to render the claimed subject matter obvious.

Claim 21 has been cancelled in response to the rejection in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present claims is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan M. Wheatcraft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allan" and last name "Wheatcraft" clearly distinguishable.

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